

*****Draft*****

Weare Open Space Committee
Minutes of April 27, 2010

Members attending: Ian McSweeney (new chair), George Malette, Steve Najjar, Pat Myers - secretary.

Guests: none

Ian called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Minutes of the March 23, 2010 meeting were reviewed. The time of adjournment was added to the minutes as 7:45 pm. George made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ian seconded the motion. Pat, Ian and George voted to accept and Steve abstained.

Discussion of other officers for the new term - Pat agreed to continue as secretary. George nominated Steve to be Vice Chair. Steve agreed to stand for the office. Pat 2nd the nomination and Steve was elected Vice Chair unanimously.

Hawkes CE status – Steve reported the closing would be the following week sometime. The cost to the Conservation Fund would be \$15,000.00 plus fees.

Oliphant town land – To refresh memories, the history of this land acquisition was reviewed. The town purchased the land and holds the title. A conservation easement was to be placed on the land and held by the PLC, but the transaction has not been done. The Tiffany's had donated \$10,000 toward the stewardship fee for the easement. There was discussion over whether the \$10,000 had already been donated to PLC by the Tiffany's or whether they might have given it to the town with the expectation that the town would put it toward the stewardship fee. Ian reported that Paula Bellamore, the new Executive Director of PLC was reviewing records to be sure. Ian offered to draft an easement based on PLC's template and to email it around before the next meeting.

Wolf Creek Investments, 66.5 acres on Horace Lake Marsh accessed from Wildwood Road – Ian had brought this potential project before the WOSC at last meeting and there was interest. Tonight he reported that the Russell Foundation has put money down to secure the land through the end of June 2010 while a project plan is developed. He reported the land has suffered 2 logging operations in recent years and so has little current timber value. The logging left some wetlands disturbance and some rutting. The owner has agreed to repair those problems. Steve warned that the State of NH owns more land above the water level than is often realized. Ian had begun researching this issue. He reported the state might own to USGS elevation 659, while the inundation level is 655. The owner is willing to sell the piece for \$50,000, less than \$1000/acre which all agreed was a good price. Ian told the committee that the Russell Foundation would be willing to provide a portion of those funds. Ian asked whether the WOSC would object if the easement would be held by the **NE Forestry Foundation**. There was no objection to that possibility. At this time Steve offered a motion of general support for this project so that discussions could continue forward. He suggested that the Wolf Creek people might come to a WCC meeting to meet and discuss the project directly. George 2nd Steve's motion. Steve, George, and Pat voted in favor and Ian abstained due to his professional involvement.

Discussion before voting on project recommendations for the WCC - The Purrington and Ilseley projects that had been brought to us by Ryan Young of SPNHF were discussed. The feeling was that it would be very difficult to move all 3 of these projects forward at the same time due to the depleted Conservation Fund, the poor town economy and the lack of much potential for a large LCHP grant. The Ilseley land would require more money and the Purrington project would take much longer than the Wolf Creek

project. Steve said he would support jumping on the Wolf Creek piece. George and Pat both felt they would want to learn more about the other 2 projects before dropping them from consideration.
(Vote taken? I did not record a vote if one occurred at this time.pmyers)

At this time Pat offered a motion to adjourn. Steve made a final comment that the WOSC must take care when discussing money in public session before the land in question has been secured with a P&S. All agreed to be more cautious. Steve 2nd the motion to adjourn, and all voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Myers
WOSC Secretary

Cc: Town Clerk, BOS, Merry Rice, WOSC files